



VISION: Eau Claire is a vibrant city with exceptional quality of life and services.

MISSION STATEMENT: It is our mission to assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community.

Popular Website Links: [City Website](#) [City Calendar](#) [City Council Members](#) [Citizen Resource Bank Form](#)
[Contact Us](#) [E-Notifications](#) [Social Media Links](#)

City Manager



Dale Peters
City Manager

Voting is the foundation of a democracy. Countless people have died to obtain or retain the right to vote. Millions of people dream of having the opportunity to vote in a fair election. How lucky we are to be able to go to a voting booth without fear of intimidation or violence and cast our votes for the representatives of our choice at the local, state and national level - a vote that directly influences the quality of our lives and impacts the future quality of the lives of our families.

So on April 5, rain or snow, warm or cold, take that little bit of extra time from your day to exercise one of the most important civic duties, privileges and rights you have – VOTE!

###

Elections

ELECTION DAY – APRIL 5

Wisconsin's Presidential Preference and Spring Election will be here soon. Election Day is April 5.



Races on the ballot include

- ✓ Presidential Preference
- ✓ State Supreme Court Justice
- ✓ Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge
- ✓ County Supervisors
- ✓ City Council
- ✓ School Board

In-person absentee voting will take place from March 21 through April 1, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 203 S. Farwell Street.

BEFORE YOU PICK A CANDIDATE..... PICK A CARD

Remember that the Photo ID law is in effect. Voters will need to show acceptable Voter ID before election officials can issue them a ballot. What is acceptable? Any of these items will work:

- Wisconsin Driver License
- Wisconsin DOT-issued ID card
- Driver License or ID card receipt issued by the Wisconsin DOT
- Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- Passport
- Certificate of naturalization
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin



If you don't have one of these IDs, you can get a free ID card from the Wisconsin DMV. But start that process now...don't wait until Election Day. For more information, go to <http://bringit.wi.gov/how-do-i-get-free-state-id-card>.

ON ELECTION DAY, REMEMBER THE 3 S'S

When you arrive at your voting site on Election Day, in order to get your ballot, remember the three S's.

1. **S**tate your name and address out loud.
Even though you are handing the election officials your ID, you still need to say your name and address out loud.
2. **S**how your Photo ID.
3. **S**ign the poll book.

Have other questions related to registering or voting?
Contact the City Elections office at 715 839-4913.

###

Community Development

February 2016 Building Permit Activity

Residential building permits issued in February consisted of six single-family homes for a total valuation of \$1,675,000. Total building valuation through February is \$7,715,482.

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. Celebrates Extraordinary Year

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. held its 2015 Annual Awards Banquet February 24 at The Halls at The Lismore. The dinner is held each year to thank everyone for their support of the downtown area and to look back at all of the developments and accomplishments of the year.

More than 550 people voted in the Annual Awards Survey. This year at the event, nine awards were given out to local downtown businesses, events and people. The winners are as follows:



Downtown Construction Project of the Year: The Lismore

Downtown Renovation Project of the Year: Lazy Monk Brewing

Downtown Best New Business: The Brewing Projekt

Downtown Experience Award: Sounds Like Summer Concert Series

Favorite Restaurant/ Bar/ Shop Downtown: Lazy Monk Brewing

Above and Beyond: Houligans Steak & Seafood Pub

Volunteer of the Year: Carrie Bodenbarg

DECI Member of the Year: Xcel Energy

Downtown First Award: Eau Claire Noon Rotary Club

**Participating
Organizations:**

- AAUW Eau Claire
- Altoona School Board
- AFT-Wisconsin
- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- City of Altoona
- City of Eau Claire
- Community Television
- Eau Claire Area School District Board of Education
- Eau Claire Association of Educators
- Eau Claire County
- Eau Claire Schools Classified Staff Federation, AFT Local 4018
- Greater West Central Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- JONAH
- Realtors® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin



***How the Chippewa Valley Got
its Swagger Back
Competing in the Age of Talent***

***Working together through public and private collaboration
to attract and retain businesses and Knowledge Workers in
the Chippewa Valley***

***Join us and our co-sponsor, Royal Credit Union
for a Community-Wide Forum***

March 16, 2016, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

RCU Corporate Center

200 Riverfront Terrace, Eau Claire

Mike Huggins, former Eau Claire City Manager will moderate

Panel includes:

**Mike Golat, City of Altoona
Bruce King, Realtor's Association
Laura Lash, Volume One writer
Kyrán Hamill, RoyalCU**

**Mike Schatz, Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.
Aaron Salmon, Code for Eau Claire
Aaron Harder, business owner
Liz Harder, Montessori Governance Board**

The Alliance for Strong Communities is a non-partisan, regional network of community organizations and agencies united in strengthening the public structures essential for individuals, families, and businesses to flourish. Alliance members share these values:

- Civil discourse
- Diverse perspectives
- Informed citizenry
- Collective wisdom
- Civic engagement
- Quality of life for all

Contact Co Chairs Mike Golat at michaelg@ci.altoona.wi.us or Joe Luginbill at josephluginbill@gmail.com with questions.

***All Chippewa Valley Citizens Welcome-
Audience participation is encouraged!***



2016 Downtown Business Competition

Jump-Start is a business competition for entrepreneurs interested in opening a business in Downtown Eau Claire, or relocating to downtown. Open to any type of business!

Submit your business plan to Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. by **August 12, 2016.**



Questions?

Contact Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. at
(715) 839-4914 or
downtown@eauclairewi.gov



More information at:

www.DowntownEauClaire.org

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Fire & Rescue

Yard Waste Disposal

With the advent of warmer weather and the official start of spring just around the corner, many residents are anxious to clean up their yards. Fortunately, there are many options available for yard waste disposal. A semi-annual curbside yard waste collection service is offered to residents through their regular garbage and recycling hauler and will take place the week of May 2 – 6.



Eau Claire County also has compiled a yard waste directory consisting of businesses and homeowners who accept leaves, grass, pine needles and other materials. A paper copy of the directory, printed in spring, is available from the Planning Department in the County Courthouse. [Click here](#) to view further information. For 2016, Eau Claire County has contracted with Boxx Sanitation to operate the brush disposal site on Jeffers Road in the city of Eau Claire. [Click here](#) for further information on that site.

Another way to make good use of yard refuse is by composting, which allows decomposed materials to be reused as a nutritious supplement for your garden, lawn, and house plants. A variety of materials may be used for composting including leaves, grass, and weeds. Information on the world of composting is abundant on the Internet.

Eau Claire Fire and Rescue encourages residents to utilize the above-mentioned options as they provide no disruption to neighbors who may be sensitive to odor/smoke from burning. Within the city of Eau Claire, a burning permit (\$5 per burning occurrence) can be obtained from the Fire Department to burn grass, leaves, and vegetable matter. Under no circumstances can plastics, garbage, or other products that might produce noxious fumes be burned. [Click here](#) to view the process for obtaining the permit and a sample permit. Please burn responsibly and respectfully!

Change Your Clock/Change Your Batteries

With the upcoming (March 13) "spring ahead" for daylight savings, residents are reminded to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Changing these batteries twice a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries. Approximately two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Eighty percent of child fire fatalities occur in homes without working smoke alarms. It also is recommended to replace smoke alarms every ten years due to decreased sensitivity. Don't let yourself or someone you love become a tragic statistic.



###

Health



- March is National Nutrition Month. The theme for 2016 is "Savor the Flavor of Eating Right," which encourages everyone to take time to enjoy food traditions and appreciate the pleasures, great flavors and social experiences food can add to our lives. **How, when, why and where we eat are just as important as what we eat.** Develop a mindful eating pattern that includes nutritious and flavorful foods — that's the best way to savor the flavor of eating right!
- National Nutrition Month is a great time for everyone to take a look at their diet and make positive changes. In Eau Claire County, **3 of 4** adults reported eating fewer than 5 servings of fruits/vegetables per day. Visit www.eatright.org to find a variety of helpful tips, fun games, and nutrition education resources.
- Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day was Wednesday, March 9. The Eau Claire City-County Health Department employs Registered Dietitians who provide nutrition education in our community and to WIC program participants. **WIC provides nutritious food and information to pregnant women, breastfeeding women, infants, and children under five years of age.** For more information about the WIC program, please visit www.echealthdepartment.org.



###

Library



Wisconsin ArtsWest 37 | February 28 – April 6

The library's annual juried art exhibit is back! Juror for this year's show is Graeme Reid, Director of the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend.

DIY Dabble: Refrigerator Magnets

Tuesday, March 15 • 6-7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

Crafts aren't just for kids! Participants will create a design with string art. For ages 18 and older.

Register online at www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events.



Gardening for Wildlife

Tuesday, March 29

1-2:30 p.m.

7-8:30 p.m. (repeat program)

Eau Claire Room

Learn how to create benefits for wildlife in your backyard using native plant species. In doing so, presenter Bill Hogseth will discuss the life-cycle of native wildlife, with an emphasis on birds, and how residential landscapes can help meet their habitat needs.

Presented by Bill Hogseth, Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Biologist.
No registration required.

History of Norway

Monday, April 4 • 7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

Nearly 10% of Wisconsinites are of Norwegian descent, yet many are unaware of the fascinating history and culture of their ancestral land. This program will outline some major episodes in Norway's history. Presented by John Yilek, Norwegian history instructor and author. Co-sponsored by the Waldemar Ager Association.



Eau Claire Grows Community Seed Library

Saturday, April 9 • 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

The seed library is back! Seed packets will be available for checkout at the open house event. After the event, seeds will be available at Information & Reference. The seed library will offer easy-to-grow seeds that are perfect for beginner seed savers. See the library's April newsletter for more information.

Writers Read: Open Mic

Tuesday, April 12 • 7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room

Bring your poetry or prose to read aloud for 5-10 minutes.

For information about library services, programs and events, visit the library online at www.ecpubliclibrary.info, stop at the Information & Reference desk on your next visit to the library, call 715-839-5004, or e-mail the library at librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us.

###

Parks, Recreation & Forestry

El Nino Free Skating March 19 & 26

In response to closing its outdoor rinks early because of the warm weather, the Hobbs Ice Center is opening its doors for two free skating sessions. Ice skates also are available at no cost.

- March 19 (1-3 p.m.)
- March 26 (3-5 p.m.)

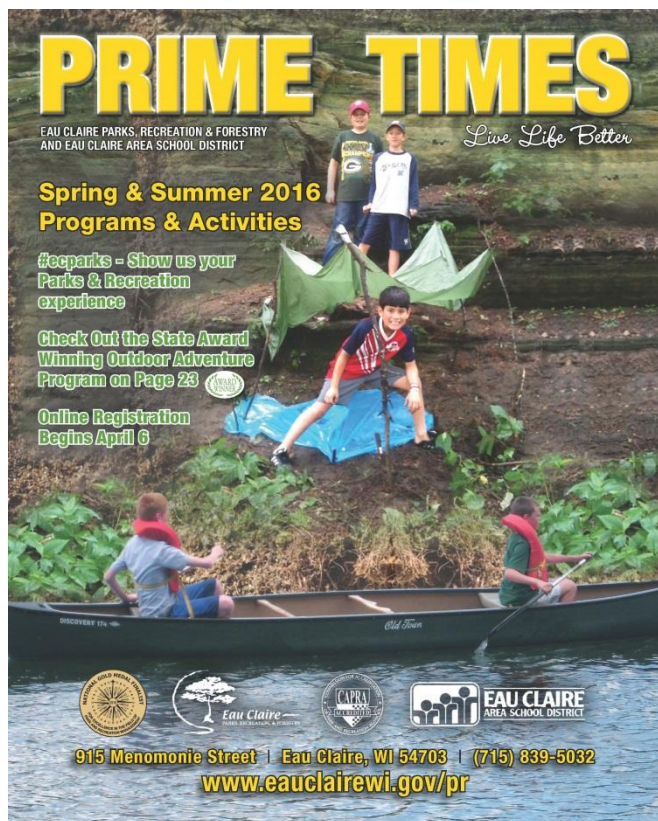
Spring Break Open Skate March 21-25

Chill out this Spring Break with skating opportunities with the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department. Additional open skate sessions will be offered March 21-25, during the Eau Claire Area School District's Spring Break, at Hobbs Ice Center, 915 Menomonie St.

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Lunch Break Skate (all ages)
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Rink Rat Hockey – Mites and Squirts (ages 7-10)
- 12:45-1:45 pm: Rink Rat Hockey – Peewees and Bantams (ages 11-14)
- 1:15-3:15 pm: Open Skating (all ages)



Admission is \$3 or a single punch with the Eau Claire City Pass. Skate rental is included with admission. For more information, contact Eau Claire Parks and Recreation staff at 715-839-5040.



Spring/Summer Prime Times Available Online

Get a jump on your summer recreation plans. The Spring/Summer issue of Prime Times can be viewed online now before print editions hit municipal facilities and other public locations later this month. To view online, go to www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes. Online registration begins for Eau Claire Area School District residents April 6. Non-resident registration begins April 11.

Parks and Recreation Sponsorship Opportunities

- **Team Sponsorships:** Youth T-ball, flag football, hockey, or soccer sponsorship opportunities are available. Your company can help promote youth sports. Sponsors are needed to keep registration fees affordable and to provide teams with uniforms and equipment. Sponsorship: \$200.
- **Fairfax Pool Pass Sponsorships:** This is your opportunity to help local families that cannot afford a pass this season. Twenty-five percent of the pass cost will be paid by the family or individual. Youth sponsorship: \$39; family of three or more: \$96.
- **Beyond the Playground Membership:** Beyond the playground is a membership program through the Community Parks Association. The purpose is to promote and enhance community support for Eau Claire's parks and public recreational lands. Membership is open to any interested individual or family. Donations are also accepted. Individual annual: \$25; family annual organization: \$250; lifetime individual/family: \$300 (one time donation).

Indoor Pickleball Tournaments in April

Eau Claire Parks & Recreation and the Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club are hosting two indoor pickleball tournaments in April. Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 6.

- Adult: April 18 and 20 (Ages: 18 and older)
- Youth: April 25 and 27 (Ages 11-17)

Cost for Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club members is \$20 per person for the first event, \$10 per person for the second event. Non-members pay \$25 per person for the first event, \$15 per person for the second event.

For more information visit www.eauclairewi.gov/athletics or contact Julie Booth at julie.booth@eauclairewi.gov.



Water Bottle Fill Stations Coming to Recreation Facilities, Parks

There's a greener way to enjoy a drink of water. The Parks and Recreation Department is installing water bottle fill stations in its recreation facilities and major parks. Within its first week at the Hobbs Ice Center, the fill station filled the equivalent of 1,200 bottles of water.

###



Spring is just around the corner and many students and families will be traveling over spring breaks. Unfortunately, thieves often choose this time of year to exploit unsuspecting vacationers. Here are some tips to keep your home and property safe:

- Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home.
- Keep all windows and doors locked.
- Create the illusion that you are home by leaving a radio playing or lights on.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries.
- Have someone keep surfaces cleared of fallen snow.
- Never post information on social media regarding your vacation – wait until after you return home to post photos of your vacation.

As the weather gets warmer, more and more pets can be seen enjoying the great outdoors. Pet owners are reminded that pets must not leave their owner's property, and that all dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than eight feet when not on their owner's property. Additionally, City ordinance states that the owner or person in charge of a pet shall promptly remove and dispose of any excreta deposited by the pet on public or private property.

Public Works

Final Pour on South Barstow Ramp

The last major concrete pour is scheduled this month on the North Barstow Parking Ramp. After the pour, work crews will shift focus onto electrical and mechanical systems, as well as the pre-cast façade panels that will need to be attached to the ramp's exterior. The project remains on budget and schedule for completion in September.

Water Street Bridge Progression

Work on WisDOT's Water Street Bridge project is progressing smoothly. The pier and abutment work is complete, and the beams have started arriving.

###

Eau Claire City Council



City Council Meeting Summaries – February 22 & 23 – March 7 & 8

At their meetings of February 22/23 and March 7/8, the City Council

- Held a public hearing related to a potential rezoning of 1005 Oxford Avenue (former First Lutheran Church) for the Boys and Girls Club and later adopted an ordinance to rezone the property.
- Held public hearings and later approved street, utility, and sidewalk improvements on W. Fillmore Avenue, W. Lexington Boulevard, Melby Street, Oxford Avenue, Spruce Street, and Churchill Street.
- Discussed employee evaluation data and performance objectives with the City Manager.
- Granted bartender licenses, Class A Fermented Malt Beverage licenses and a Change of Agent for the licenses of Pine Meadow Golf Club and Dining, and New China Buffet, along with granting a temporary license to Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley for the 9th Annual Wine & Cheese Tasting Fundraiser.
- Granted a Secondhand Article Dealer license to ecoATM, Inc.
- Considered and later approved the street, utility, and sidewalk improvements along with associated special assessments on N. Hastings Way, Summit Avenue, Park Avenue, Park Place, Mt. Nemo Avenue, and Wedgewood Avenue and the sidewalk improvements on Damon Street, Southtowne Drive, and Southtowne Place.
- Reviewed and approved a Memo of Understanding between the City and Chippewa Valley Predators Football, Inc. for use of Carson Park Football Stadium, along with reviewing and approving a revised Memo of Understanding between the City, Eau Claire National Little League and Eau Claire Girls Fastpitch Softball for use of Jeffers Park fields.
- Approved a Joint Funding Agreement with United States Geological Survey for the operation and maintenance of the Chippewa River gauge at Grand Avenue.
- Accepted a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant.
- Appointed two City Council Representatives to the Public Market Feasibility Study Steering Committee.
- Postponed (until May) the consideration of creating Ordinance Chapter 5.57 - "Escort Service License".
- Conducted public hearings and later approved a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 10.24 "Special Parking Restrictions" relating to bus stops and bike lanes, a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 5.56 "Massage Therapy Facilities and the Practice of Massage Therapy", and a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 5.04 "Pawnbrokers".

- Heard a staff presentation of the 2015 Hobbs Ice Center Annual Report on operations.
- Accepted a donation from Festival Foods for the July 4, 2016 fireworks display.
- Approved an agreement with Gary Martin for the service of beer in the Carson Park Concession Plaza.
- Approved a Second Amendment to a Site Agreement between the City of Eau Claire and T-Mobile Central, LLC for a tower on Oak Knoll Drive.
- Accepted the donation of the “Trojan Horse” artwork from Sculpture Tour Eau Claire, to be displayed at Jeffers Park.
- Authorized appropriation adjustments to the 2016 Budget for revenues and expenditures unanticipated during budget planning.
- Introduced an ordinance rezoning property north of Westover Road, west of State Street, from TR-1A to R-1 for single-family development, an ordinance amending the General Development Plan for the Confluence Project with the rezoning of property to the north of the Community Arts facility from P-Public to CBDP, and an ordinance creating Section 13.12.066 “Mobile Food Establishments” and amending Section 9.76.100 “Parks—Commercial Enterprises” and Section 13.12.060 “Sale of Goods” of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Conducted a work session to discuss Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

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